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1 SENATE RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, The members of the Illinois Senate are saddened to
3 learn of the death of Alvin J. Boutte, Sr.; and

4 WHEREAS, Alvin Boutte, Sr. was born on October 10, 1929, in
5 Lake Charles, Louisiana; his parents were Arthur H. Boutte and
6 Adorea Darensbourg Boutte; and

7 WHEREAS, Alvin Boutte, Sr. attended Sacred Heart Grammar
8 and High School; he then continued his education under the
9 Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament at Xavier University in New
10 Orleans, Louisiana on a basketball scholarship; while
11 attending the University he met his future wife, Barbara
12 Gonzaque; and

13 WHEREAS, During college, Alvin Boutte, Sr. established
14 businesses to service the needs of the student body, including
15 a laundry pick up and payment collection business for the male
16 students; after earning his degree in pharmacy, he moved to
17 Chicago where a Xavier track coach, Ralph Metcalfe, had already
18 established himself as Alderman of the 3rd Ward; and

19 WHEREAS, After college, Alvin Boutte, Sr. successfully
20 completed the U.S. Army Officer Candidate School; he attained
21 the rank of Captain and was stationed in Germany; after 2

1 years, he was honorably discharged and went to Chicago with his
2 wife and daughters, Janice and Jeanette; after migrating to
3 Chicago, he quickly acquired Lakeside Drug Store at 47th and
4 Lake Park; he later turned the store into a chain of stores at
5 47th and Lake Park, Madison and Western, 79th and Cottage, and
6 79th and Michigan in Chicago; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1964, Alvin Boutte, Sr. became a co-founder of
8 Independence Bank of Chicago; the bank was established to
9 service the needs of the Chatham Avalon community and was
10 dedicated to providing excellent service to its customers and
11 to the professional development of its employees; he was most
12 proud of the development of his staff to become presidents of
13 other minority banks across the country and to hold executive
14 positions; and

15 WHEREAS, Alvin Boutte, Sr. helped to advance the fledging
16 Civil Rights Movement by repeatedly contributing money to Dr.
17 Martin Luther King, Jr. and his Southern Christian Leadership
18 Conference; he was also a key contributor with the group of
19 businessmen who brought Nelson Mandela to Chicago in the summer
20 of 1993 to raise money for his ANC political organization after
21 he was freed; and

22 WHEREAS, Alvin Boutte, Sr. served as Chairman of Fulcrum
23 Venture Capital Corporation, an early government-backed

1 venture fund established to provide growth equity to create
2 long standing minority-owned businesses; he also served on the
3 boards of directors of Johnson Products Co., Chicago
4 Metropolitan Mutual Assurance Co., Midway Airlines, Rainbow
5 PUSH, the Chicago Urban League, the Rehabilitation Institute of
6 Chicago, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois, Junior
7 Achievement, and the Chatham Business Association, among many
8 others; he was appointed to the Chicago Board of Education by
9 Mayor Richard J. Daley, and served 2 terms as one of the first
10 African-American board members; and

11 WHEREAS, Alvin Boutte, Sr. received accolades and awards
12 and was proudest of being Co-Chair of the Chicago Urban League
13 Golden Fellowship gala; he was inducted into the Junior
14 Achievement Chicago Businessmen Hall of Fame in 1993; and

15 WHEREAS, Alvin Boutte, Sr. is survived by his wife,
16 Barbara; his daughters, Janice Boutte and Jeanette Simpson; his
17 sons, Gregory and Alvin, Jr.; his 4 grandchildren; his 4
18 great-grandchildren; and his many other relatives, friends,
19 and admirers; therefore, be it

20 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL
21 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we mourn, along with
22 his family and friends, the passing of Alvin Boutte, Sr.; and
23 be it further

1 RESOLVED, That a suitable copy of this resolution be
2 presented to the family of Alvin Boutte, Sr. as an expression
3 of our sympathy.